

## 8.3 Ethical Health Care Provision

# Ethical Issue #1 The Blood Supply

## BLOOD PRODUCTS AND THEIR USES

Blood Product	Recipients
Red Blood Cells	Accident victims, surgical patients, people with anemia
Platelets	Leukemia patients, cancer patients
Plasma	Patients suffering from burns or shock
Cryoprecipitate	People with hemophilia, people with other blood disorders

# Ethical Issue #1 The Blood Supply

- Until 1980's the CRC (Canadian Red Cross) was the agency responsible for collecting, storing and distributing blood products
- In the mid 1980's over 1200 Canadians contracted HIV from blood or blood products supplied by the agency

# Ethical Issue #1 The Blood Supply

- In addition some were infected with Hepatitis C
- Why hadn't the CRC been able to ensure the safety of the blood supply?
- Many of the problems were from the screening progress

# Ethical Issue #1 The Blood Supply

- The CRC was unwilling to continue in the role of blood provider when it became obvious that greater government oversight was going to be implemented
- For profit company?
- Provincial or Federal Government?
- Independent agency responsible to the gov't?

# Ethical Issue #1 The Blood Supply

- In the end a new agency, funded by the federal and provincial governments , but independent of them, took over in 1998 (Canadian Blood Services [CBS])

# Ethical Issue #2 Organ Harvesting

- Video: One Life...Many Gifts
- Practical Issue: relates to grieving families and how we define death
- Doctors usually use the absence of brain waves as evidence of death
- Families could use the heart beating as a sign of life even though loss of brain waves

# Ethical Issue #2 Organ Harvesting

- Ethical Issue: Who owns the organs in question?
- TGLF Trillium Gift of Life Foundation



A future is yours to give

There is a crisis in Ontario,

EVERY 3 DAYS, SOMEONE IN THE  
PROVINCE DIES UNNECESSARILY  
WHILE WAITING FOR AN ORGAN  
TRANSPLANT

# A Future is yours to give

- **At this very moment**

THERE ARE ALMOST **1700 ONTARIO RESIDENTS**  
– MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO ARE  
WAITING FOR A LIFE-SAVING ORGAN  
TRANSPLANT

THE SAD REALITY IS THAT MANY DIE BEFORE A  
MATCHING ORGAN BECOMES AVAILABLE

# A FUTURE IS YOURS TO GIVE

**THE ORGAN DONATION RATE IN ONTARIO IS ONLY**

**13 DONORS PER MILLION POPULATION,** LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT IT SHOULD BE. THAT MEANS THAT PEOPLE WHO COULD LIVE- IF THEY HAD A NEW HEART, LUNG, LIVER, KIDNEY, PANCREAS OR SMALL BOWEL- SIT ON A WAITING LIST, HOPING FOR A DONOR

# What is the biggest problem facing transplantation today?

- Their needs are not being met because of a lack of donated organs
- More than 4,000 Canadians are waiting for an organ transplant, and thousands more need a tissue transplant
- 200 to 300 Canadians die each year because there are not enough donated organs

# OLMG

- Rizwana, Sara, Brandon, Janet

## Ethics

- Buying and selling
- Public Resources vs Personal Responsibility
- Presumed Consent vs Informed Consent

# Issue #3- Medical Research

- Embryo cloning- ethics
- Nuremburg Code (last in cold water, drinking only sea water, lungs bursting because of atmospheric pressure)
- Nuremburg Code- Informed Consent

# Issue #3- Medical Research

- Stem Cell Research

Opens up the debate about what constitutes a human

Researchers ask why they shouldn't be able to use excess embryos from IVF

Religion- unethical to create human life and later destroy it